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**Excavations at Mainistir Chiarain, County Galway, Ireland**

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**ABSTRACT:**

In the summer of 1996, I participated in archaeological excavations at Mainistir Chiarain, a small monastic site located on the island of Inis Mor in County Galway, Ireland. The purpose of the excavations was to determine the age and function of the structure on the south side of the site. The information gathered will be used to develop a better idea of how people lived within the religious community on the island in the Middle Ages.

The surface structure, Building A, was dated to the sixteenth or early seventeenth century based on pottery analysis. Further excavation led to the discovery of a subsurface structure, Building B, approximately dated to the fifteenth century, and two enclosing walls of indeterminate date. It is thought at present that Building B represents the last use of the grounds of Mainistir Chiarain as a religious community, and Building A represents the more recent use of the land for purely domestic purposes. The site of Mainistir may have at one time been an important religious center on the island, but it probably fell out of use during the Reformation.

Further work will be done on the site in the summer of 1997. It is hoped that more subsurface remains will be found. These findings will help to establish a date for the establishment of the monastery and shed more light on the structure of Medieval religious society on Inis Mor.

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## INTRODUCTION

For three months during the summer of 1996, University of California at Berkeley helped to sponsor the first season of excavations at the site of Mainistir Chiarain (St. Chiarain's Monastery), an early Medieval religious site founded by St. Chiarain Mac an tSaoire (also the founder of the well-known monastery at Clonmacnoise). The site is located about one mile from the town of Kilronan on Inis Mor, one of the Aran Islands off the west coast of Co. Galway, Ireland. The purpose of the excavation was to determine when the structure to the south of the church was used and for what purpose.

I participated in the project at Mainistir Chiarain as part of Berkeley's University Research Expeditions Program. In the following report, I will present the research I have done regarding the Aran Islands and the history of monasticism in Ireland, as well as a summary of the results from the first season's excavations.

## INIS MOR

The Aran Islands rest in Galway Bay, directly off the coast of County Galway, in the west of Ireland. They are approximately 5 miles northwest of the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare and 6 miles south of Connemara, County Galway ( fig.1). This area of Ireland is part of the Gaeltach area, a section along the west coast of Ireland where several forms of the ancient Gaelic language are still spoken (Smith 1980:17). Three small islands make up the string: Inis Mor, the largest of the three, Inis Meain, the middle island, and Inis Oirr, the small island.

Inis Mor is roughly 8 miles long by 2 miles wide (Smith 1980:1) (fig.2). The population of Inis Mor is approximately 900 people, each one living along or just off one of the two roads. Only about 10% of the inhabitants own cars; those who do not get around by way of tractor, horse and trap, bicycle, or foot.

Life on Inis Mor and all of the Aran Islands is considered simple by modern standards. In just the last twenty years people have begun to get indoor plumbing, telephones, electricity, and to replace their thatched-roofs with other, sturdier, man-made materials. For industry, the islanders rely on fishing or driving the ever-growing number of tourists around in mini-buses and horse-and-traps. Supplies are hard to come by; the one market on the island supplies the entire island with all the necessary goods. The majority of the income comes from fishing and tourism.

The Aran Islands have an ancient history. Settlement on Inis Mor dates back nearly 6000 years (Robinson 1980). In the sixth century A.D. the Arans became popular as places for Christian pilgrimage. St. Enda built the first monastery on Inis Mor in approximately 500 A.D. Inis Mor became so popular with the early Christian monks that it is known as Ara na Naomh, or the island of the saints.

Early islanders had to make their own soil from animal dung and seaweed in order to grow small crops of potatoes and hay. As farmers cleared their fields, they piled the

huge stones on the side, building the long and winding gray stone fences that are now considered a part of "classic Ireland". They also had to build their own cottages, thatch their own roofs, and make their own boats for fishing. These boats, the canoe-like traditional canvas and tar currach, are still used by some islanders today. Through all this, the islanders had to also fight their continuous battle with nature. They lived through violent winter storms that could at times throw huge waves thundering over the island. They watched as the sea threatened to claim more of the rocky southern cliffs every year. They hoped for enough rain to provide fresh water for the people living on an island that was too dry and rocky to provide suitable reservoirs.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INIS MOR

The earliest traces of human activity on Inis Mor go back to approximately 2500 B.C. The remains of these early settlers consist primarily of dolmen, or wedge tombs (Ryan 1994:53). These are grave markers, mounds covered by an arrangement of rock slabs. The best preserved wedge tomb on Inis Mor is located in the middle of a farmer's field in the town of Eochail on the south side of the island.

Inis Mor was from early times a desirable place to settle, as it was in a good position for control of the North and South coastal traffic (Waddell, O'Connell, and Korff 1994: 99). There are four large circular stone forts on Inis Mor, located on the island's higher points. Forts of this type are found throughout Ireland, having once served as either defensive structures or places of religious practice (there is an ongoing debate as to the true purpose of these great structures) (Ryan 1994:111). Structurally, they consist of two or more large ring-shaped walls and, in some cases, a *chevaux-de-frise*. This is a protective rock arrangement consisting of large pointed stones planted in the ground, the purpose of which has been interpreted as making travel to the entrances of the forts quite difficult for potential invaders. Dun Aonghasa, one of the four large forts on Inis Mor, is of questionable date but appears to belong to the early Iron Age (Ryan 1994:111). There are also a number of smaller forts scattered across the island.

Another early structure is the clochan, or beehive cell, prominent on the western Irish landscape. The clochans are small huts, rounded and made of stone, which were usually covered with sod. These are believed to have been used as living quarters and probably represent an ancient style of building (Laing 1975:171). The best preserved clochan on Inis Mor is known as Clochan na Carraige. This structure is entirely intact, with the exception of the outer turf covering, and quite effectively shows the restricted living space provided by such a structure (Waddell, O'Connell, and Korff 1994:100).



In the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., Christian monks began to come to Inis Mor, choosing the island as the location for their small monastic settlements because it offered isolation and a good atmosphere for prayer and reflection. It is believed that around 500 A.D., St. Enda arrived on Inis Mor from mainland Ireland with the intention of setting up a monastic settlement (Pouchin Mould 1976:17). He proceeded to establish a monastery in what is now the town of Cill Einne (Killeany) along the north-west coast of the island (Manning 1995:11). Aran soon became a place of religious pilgrimage, and many leaders came to establish their own monastic settlements. It has since earned the name Ara na Noamh, Aran of the Saints.

The west of Ireland is very rich in later ecclesiastical remains. The churches here are built of Ireland's ubiquitous gray stone, and many have stood for centuries. The earliest churches were usually built of wood (Harbison 1976:66), and have been lost to decay. The first stone churches appeared in the later eighth century, and are still built in some areas of Ireland today (DeBreffny 1976:10). Inis Mor is scattered with these old stone churches, many dating from the tenth through fourteenth centuries (Manning 1995:11). These sites are usually made up of a church with a secondary building nearby, one or more cross slabs, a holy well, and a cemetery located in the vicinity. The sites vary in size. For example, Na Seacht d'Teampall and Teampall Bhreacain, or the Seven Churches, consists of two churches, five domestic units, a well, an enclosed cemetery, and numerous cross slabs, high crosses, and "saints' graves". In contrast, the site of Teampall Bheanain is made up of a small church (approx. 10 1/2 feet by 7 feet), a well, and a round tower, common to early Christian sites but rare on the islands, all situated on top of the highest point on Inis Mor. Sites vary according to the time during which they were established, and it is not uncommon to find characteristics of many different building styles at one location. Many of the sites on Inis Mor are still in use today.

Religious settlement continued on Aran until the invasion of Cromwellian troops in the seventeenth century. At this time, churches were destroyed and people were forced to leave (Pouchin Mould 1976:119-120). Arkin Fort, on the north-west coast of Inis Mor, stands as a reminder of this turbulent time in history. The Cromwellians went so far as to tear down the nearby friary and church dedicated to St. Enda, and then proceeded to use the material in the building of Arkin (Waddell, O'Connell, and Korff 1994:149-158).

## CATHOLICISM AND MONASTICISM ON INIS MOR

It is generally accepted that Saint Patrick brought Catholicism to Ireland in 500 A.D., although it is likely that the religion had been introduced there sometime earlier. The origins are not well known, but it is recorded that Pope Celestine I sent a bishop named Palladius to "the Irish who believed in Christ" in 431 A.D. (Manning 1995:5). Not long after the religion took hold, monasteries began to spring up and quickly gain strength as centers of religion and education as well as population and trade. It is thought that the monasteries became so strong and powerful so quickly because of the lack of urban centers in early Ireland. By the tenth and eleventh centuries, some monasteries had grown large enough to be considered towns (Manning 1995:5-6).

At the same time that Patrick is believed to have arrived in Ireland, Saint Enda, a well educated monk, is thought to have traveled to Inis Mor from the west coast of Ireland with the intention of setting up a monastic community on the island (Pouchin Mould 1976:17). The Aran Islands were ideal for such a venture; they were secluded, providing both a perfect atmosphere for prayer and reflection, as well as a safe place for members of the new religion to come. The Aran Islands quickly became popular places for people to travel on pilgrimage.

What remains of the churches on Inis Mor provide good examples of the typical early monastic settlement, which usually included a church and secondary building, at least one stone cross slab, a nearby cemetery, and a tree and well, both assumed to be holy through association with the church property. The trees and wells point at the pagan roots of Ireland; they are both traditional pagan symbols that have been incorporated into the Christian religion (Robinson 1980). The churches and surrounding buildings were usually made of stone, a practice which began in the eighth century A.D., and were rarely decorated prior to the Romanesque period (twelfth century A.D.) (Manning 1995: 16).

In the twelfth century, the old native monastic system began to collapse. The church was reorganized into dioceses, and monastic orders became popular on the European continent (Gwynn and Hadcock 1970:2-5). Because of their relative isolation, the Aran Islands were less affected by the changes on the Irish mainland and the European continent and remained a strong center of religious pilgrimage and refuge for many centuries. Little is known about the organization of the church in this area of Ireland during this later period, but there does appear to be a continuity of style despite the restructuring of the church elsewhere in the country (Ni Ghabhlain and Moran 1996:2).

## EXCAVATION AT MAINISTIR CHIARAIN

The Medieval site of Mainistir Chairain on the island of Inis Mor, Ireland is an example of an early small monastic settlement. The founding of Mainistir Chiarain is credited to St. Chiarain Mac an tSaoire. Chiarain is believed to have come to Inis Mor in the sixth century in the hopes of following in the path of St. Enda, who established the first monastery on the island (Waddell, O'Connell, and Korff 1994:112).

In the summer of 1995, Sinead Ni Ghabhlain and Jo Moran conducted a preliminary survey of all the monastic sites on Inis Mor. They returned in June 1996 to begin excavations at Mainistir Chiarain. The information collected from the excavations at this site will be used to help determine what the structures on this site and many others were used for and what sort of domestic and economic practices were followed. It is hoped that this information will help to provide a clear picture of what life was like for islanders during the Middle Ages, in turn helping to understand Medieval Ireland as a whole.

The site of Mainistir Chiarain is located on the north side of Inis Mor, just off St. Ronan's Road, approximately one mile northwest of the pier at Kilronan. The site layout is as follows (fig.3):

1. In the center is Teampall Chiarain (St. Chiarain's Church) (figs.4&5), a stone church showing at least three phases of building: an early (Cyclopean) lintelled door (fig.6) on the west side, a twelfth-century (transitional Romanesque-Gothic) east window (fig.7), and a fifteenth-century (Late Medieval) door on the north side of the structure, displaying the pointed arch characteristic of the period.
2. To the north, east, and south of the church are the remains of other structures, now simply existing as stone foundations. The unit known as Mainistir Chiarain is the southern unit (figs.8,9&10).

3. On the east side of the church stands a cross slab, unusual in that it has a hole drilled through the center near the top (fig. 11). Many theories as to its function have been proposed, including the use of it as both a sundial and a healing stone.
4. Farther to the east, in two connecting fields, stand the remains of two cross slabs. These display the characteristics of early high cross development, and it is believed that they may have marked the boundaries of the church sanctuary.
5. To the west stands an unusually tall carved cross slab, possibly marking the western boundary of church property.
6. To the northwest is the church well. Sacred wells and trees that are common to many sites have their roots in early pagan practices.
7. Marking the northern boundary of the property, in a pasture across St. Ronan's Road, is a small cemetery. Once used for common burial, many early church cemeteries remain in use as burial grounds for the bodies of unbaptized infants, who are often buried separate from the baptized population (Ni Ghabhlain, personal communication).

The focus of the excavation was directed towards the structure named Mainistir Chiarain, located to the south of the church. The remains of the structure include three stone walls, standing about six-feet high each, and a fourth built into the hill up against which the structure stood.

The archaeologists on site had already begun to excavate before my group arrived in July 1996. They had, in the weeks prior to our arrival, removed the turf from the interior of the structure, removed the larger stones from the area, and divided the interior of the unit up into four quadrants. They had also prepared a 1 meter wide area on the west and east sides of the structure to be excavated.

The following data and description is taken from Ni Ghabhlain and Moran, 1996, and describes the work done during the summer of 1996. For a list of finds, see Appendix A.

### **Block 1**

contexts: 001 - topsoil

004 - rubble inside structure

005 - rubble beside east wall 030 = 004

006 - shell midden overlying 005

011 - rubble beside west wall 078

033 - small subangular stone (0.10m), lower 011

039 - large flat stone (0.10m-0.15m) patches at bottom of 004

065 - rubble beside northwest corner of north wall 073

080 - cut through 065

Block 1 includes the rubble associated with the collapse of Building A, the latest building in the excavated area, and shell midden 006. Only the lowest portions of the walls appear to be original to Building A. The upper half of the walls were recently rebuilt using medium sized loose stones, and most of the large facing stones are now gone. The artifacts found within the layers are domestic: pottery sherds, quernstones, honestones, grindstones, bone points, a fishing weight, nails, and some iron fragments.

The artifacts from Block 1 span the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Pottery includes one sherd of Cologne ware (004) dating from the sixteenth century and one sherd of Frecken ware (004) from the seventeenth century. A clay pipe bowl, found in context 011, is seventeenth century in date. The iron and bone knife is from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century (based on other related types of known date). A sherd of clear glass (001) is modern. As indicated by the dateable artifacts, it is likely that the rubble from Building A accumulated from the early sixteenth century until quite recently.

## **Block 2**

contexts: 002 - soil including shell, stone, faunal remains, and charcoal  
003 - charcoal-rich soil  
007 - shell and some stone in brown sandy soil outside east wall  
009 - dark sandy soil outside doorway of east wall 030  
010 - shell midden, southeast corner  
012 - dark sandy soil, beside exterior of west wall 078  
013 - dark compact soil under 009  
014 - threshold stones, east doorway  
015 - compact dark sandy soil, including charcoal, shell, faunal remains, pebbles, and ash - occupation layer  
016 - brown soil, stone, yellow clay infilling hollows at north end of building  
018 - floor - patchy yellow clay and soil  
021 - hearth - ash and charcoal layers over burnt clay  
022 - metalled surface and paving under 018 inside Building A (reuse of 008)  
024 - oval pit, northwest corner of building  
025 - fill of pit 024: dark charcoal-flecked silty soil including medium-sized stones, faunal remains, and ash over cleaner silt  
030 - east wall, clay bonded  
061 - sandy soil with shell, under topsoil  
062 - light sandy soil beside wall 073 beneath 061  
073 - north wall  
078 - west wall, built over lower parts of 064  
079 - south wall, may be earlier wall reused  
081 - west wall doorway, blocked

Block 2 is associated with the use and construction of Building A. The west wall (078) reuses the lower part of an earlier wall (064), and the east wall (030) includes part of an earlier wall (020) at the south end. There is no foundation under the other walls. The walls consist of a rubble core with facing made of roughly shaped limestone blocks. The east and west walls have opposing doorways.

Inside the structure exists a central hearth (021) with no settings located between the two doors. The flooring (018) is made up of reused earlier surfaces (022), and included many domestic artifacts.

Artifacts associated with Block 2 include lead shot, pottery, grind stones, clay pipe fragments, iron nails, an iron pin, fragments of a bone point, and iron fragments. The pottery includes one sherd of Cologne ware (007) dating from the sixteenth century, one



sherd of fourteenth century Saintonge ware (061), and one sherd of Black-glazed ware, possibly eighteenth century English. The large span of dates for the pottery makes it difficult to date the period of construction and occupation of Building A. The charcoal from level 015 will be submitted for radiocarbon dating. The approximate date for occupation of Building A is sixteenth or seventeenth century based on the dating of the disuse of the structure as indicated by Block 1.

### **Block 3**

contexts: 017 - dark sandy soil containing shell (a high proportion), small stone, and faunal remains  
023 - dark sandy soil containing shell and faunal remains  
032 - shell midden and brown sandy soil  
040 - shell midden and brown sandy soil under wall 030 and extending beyond it to the west = 032  
050 - cut in furrow to east of wall 030  
051 - fill of furrow 050; sandy soil and shell  
063 - shell in loose sandy soil under wall 073 and next to south wall of church  
072 - small stone rubble and sandy soil over 074  
074 - small stone rubble in sandy soil under wall 073

Block 3 includes the soil and shell that collected on the site between the time of the destruction of wall 020 and Building B and the construction of Building A. The sandy soil and shell from contexts 017, 023, 032, 040, and 063 are all from the same layer but have been separated by the overlying walls 030 and 073. The greatest concentration of shell is context 032, which overlies wall 020.

A furrow exists on the south side of the church, cutting through the hearth (053) and layer 052. This furrow, along with shell and soil layers 017, 023, 032, 040, and 063, indicates a use of the site prior to the construction on Building A and following the collapse of Building B.

Artifacts recovered from Block 3 include 41 gallon bags of shell (30 from layer 032 and 11 from layer 023), three pottery sherds, two bone dice, an iron pin, bronze fragments, iron nails, iron fragments, and flint flakes. Of the pottery, one sherd is Cologne ware (063) from the sixteenth century and one sherd is Merida ware (017), ranging in date from the thirteenth through sixteenth centuries. The Merida ware found here is orange in color, a trait of the later style, and is therefore thought to be of a later date. The bone dice (023) are of a type that have been associated with Medieval contexts, but this style continued in use over a long period and they are therefore not easily dateable. The finds

that are dateable indicate a fifteenth to sixteenth century date for the time before the construction of Building A, but after the destruction of Building B.

#### **Block 4**

contexts: 029 - sandy yellow brown clay and stone (071)  
035 - cut of small circular feature  
036 - fill of 035 consisting of gray-black charcoal-flecked soil  
037 - disarticulated human bone  
041 - stoneholes resulting from the disappearance of foundation stones of 028  
042 - fill of 041 consisting of gray-brown charcoal-rich soil and lumps of yellow clay  
049 - fill of pit 054 consisting of charcoal-rich silty soil  
054 - small circular pit  
069 - compact yellow clay, pockets of soil with animal and human bone  
071 - brown sandy soil, charcoal flecks and faunal remains  
075 - linear feature through 070, filled with 069  
084 - cut through floor 044 for bone 039

Block 4 deals with the levels concerning the collapse of Building B. A hole was cut in the floor of the structure after it had fallen out of use for the purpose of reburying human bones (037), including long bones, some pelvis, and parts of two mandibles (fig. 12). This hole is cut through hearth 053, indicating that the bones were buried sometime after it was used. Clay and stone were found overlying the buried bone. These substances may be the result of the building's destruction, and may therefore suggest that the bones were buried before or during the time it was destroyed.

The south wall (082) of Building B is completely gone. Pit 054 cuts through the robber trench (077) of this wall. It contained charcoal-rich soil, four sherds of Merida ware, and a small iron key, and was sealed by a shell layer (040).

The Merida sherds and key were found in sealed context and can therefore provide a reliable date for the destruction of Building B. The Merida ware sherds are orange, a color common in sixteenth century examples. The pit cuts into the robber trench of wall 082 and can help in establishing a sixteenth century date for the collapse of this structure. A sample of the charcoal-rich soil (049) from the pit will be radiocarbon dated to confirm this date.

### **Block 5**

- contexts: 008 - small paving and metalled surface
- 019 - light brown silty soil
  - 020 - remains of stone and clay wall, south of Building B
  - 026 - construction cut for wall 064
  - 027 - fill of 026 - yellow clay, shell and stone
  - 028 - Building B west wall (clay bonded)
  - 029 - light brown sandy soil and yellow clay (071)
  - 031 - stone and yellow clay under wall 020
  - 034 - paving and metalled surface on west side of and under wall 064
  - 037 - disarticulated human bone
  - 038 - yellow clay and charcoal
  - 043 - small rubble west of wall 028
  - 044 - red-brown clayey soil and stone next to east side of wall 028
  - 045 - small stone in a matrix of dark-brown silty soil
  - 046 - brown sandy soil
  - 047 - gray-brown silty soil with charcoal flecks
  - 048 - white sand and soil over rubble 043
  - 049 - fill of pit 054 - dark brown silty soil, charcoal, and shell
  - 052 - dark brown silty soil containing charcoal, shell, ash, and animal bone
  - 053 - hearth, Building B
  - 054 - cut of small circular pit
  - 055 - silt and small stone trampled into surface west of wall 028
  - 056 - red-brown clayey soil - floor of Building B
  - 057 - silt and charcoal over 008
  - 066 - cut of shallow pit under hearth 053
  - 067 - fill of 066 - sandy soil with charcoal, ash, and burnt clay flecks
  - 068 - sandy yellow-brown clay
  - 070 - angular rubble and yellow clay beside wall 026 and south of church wall
  - 076 - compact pebble surface and paving between wall 064 and southwest corner of church
  - 077 - yellow-brown clayey soil defining line of 082
  - 082 - Building B south wall, completely gone

Block 5 concerns the construction and use of Building B as well as wall 020 to the south of it and enclosing wall 064. Only the west half of the structure is within the area excavated. Building B is a domestic building next to the south wall of the church. Building B is represented by a clay and earth floor, a central hearth, and a west wall (028), only the northern part of which survives intact. The walls were of clay-bonded limestone. The outer surface of the south side of the structure, paving 008, appears to be a reused

earlier surface. It was covered in a silt layer (057) over which Building B was built.

Plaster found in associated layers indicates possible weatherproofing of the building.

Wall 020 in the southeast section of the cutting appears to have been built over the south wall of Building B (082). The association of wall 020 is unclear at present, but it may have been an early enclosing wall. Wall 064, which now consists only of two bottom layers, appears to be a later enclosing wall, creating a courtyard on the west of the building. The south end was built over surface 008. The excavated area was extended to expose the north end of wall 064 in order to determine if a gate existed between the wall and the church. The wall does not meet the church, but further excavation is necessary to find evidence of a gate.

Most of the occupation layers (044 and 052) were removed in Block 4 (cut.082), and it was cut through by a cultivation furrow (Block 3,050) east of the hearth. The hearth itself was buried under the east wall of Building A and was therefore only recorded in sections. Dateable finds associated with Block B include one sherd of Cologne ware (057) and one sherd of Saintonge ware (019). Both sherds date to the sixteenth century, but were found in what appear to be disturbed contexts, making their use in dating this layer invalid. The dating of the construction and use of Building B is uncertain at present, and charcoal samples from hearth 053 and level 052 will be carbon-dated.

## DISCUSSION

Excavation and artifact analysis shows at least three phases of construction and use at Mainistir Chiarain: construction and use of Building B, construction of enclosing wall 064, and construction and use of Building A. It is suspected that wall 020 may represent another phase, but it is uncertain at the time of this report.

There is no certain date for Building B at present, but it predates both wall 064 and Building A, and therefore was most likely constructed before the sixteenth century. The pottery sherds from this phase were found in what appear to be disturbed contexts, and dating will therefore depend on carbon samples. The time of collapse of the structure, however, can be dated to the sixteenth century on the basis of Merida ware samples found in pit 054. Building B was a domestic unit, as can be determined by the hearth remains as well as associated artifacts.

Wall 064 was built some time after the construction of Building B, as the wall overlies flagstones associated with B. It does, however, predate Building A, as A reuses parts of 064 in its west wall.

Building A has been dated to the sixteenth or seventeenth century based on pottery analysis. It appears as though this unit was built when the lands of Mainistir Chiarain were no longer in use by the church. It was not uncommon for church lands to be used as domestic property after the Reformation, and it is thought that Building A was a domestic unit of no relation to the monastery. The remains of the village of Mainistir are just west of Mainistir Chiarain, and A may be an early house associated with this settlement.

Wall 020 (Block 5) may represent another building phase, as it is constructed over the south wall of Building B. Not enough data is available at present to determine a date.

A great deal can be learned about the Medieval Irish monastic system from the excavations at Mainistir Chiarain. This site represents a smaller settlement, one that may have served a small section of the early Aran community. The monastery, no matter how

small, would likely have been the center of society during the Middle Ages. As of the summer 1996, the earliest levels are of an undetermined date, but it appears that Chiarain functioned much like many other known monastic settlements of a similar style. The evidence of the early enclosing walls indicates that it may have been an small enclosed religious community, much like the site of Na Seacht d'Teampaill and Teampaill Bhreacain (The Seven Churches). At this site, several examples of domestic dwellings are found associated with the religious structures, all of which are surrounded by an enclosing wall (Waddell, O'Connell, and Korff 1994:119). This type of settlement served as both the social and religious center of the surrounding villages or hamlets. Mainistir Chiarain may have been one such settlement.

At some point, probably around the late fifteenth century, Mainistir Chiarain ceased to function as a central monastic site. The chain of events at this time is unclear, but it is likely that the abandonment of Chiarain coincided with the arrival of Cromwell's troupes on the island at that time. Most of the religious settlements were negatively affected by this invasion in some way, whether through temporary abandonment or complete destruction. Building B, the lower structure, appears to have been destroyed sometime in the fifteenth century.

Evidence suggests that the site of Chiarain was resettled in the sixteenth century. Building A, the surface structure, was probably in use until the seventeenth century, as determined by pottery analysis. One hypothesis, put forth by Ni Ghabhlain and Moran (1996), suggests that Mainistir Chiarain was a part of the village of Mainistir, inhabited until quite recently. Building A may have functioned as a domestic unit as indicated by the nature of the finds. It may have been associated with this village, and may have even been inhabited until the abandonment of the village itself.

The general lifestyle of the inhabitants of Mainistir Chiarain does not appear to have changed much over time. Subsistence patterns were relatively constant; the diet was



made up largely of small animals and shellfish, as can be determined from their remains. Pottery styles also stayed consistent; the majority of pottery samples represent Cologne and Merida ware, two styles common to the area. There is some indication of change over time regarding other finds, but more analysis and research will have to be done before anything definite can be determined.

At this time, it is difficult to determine much more information. More extensive work needs to be done at the Mainistir site before anything concrete can be established. In the Summer of 1997, the directors plan to return to Mainistir Chiarain to continue excavations. A geophysical survey of the site will be done in the summer of 1997 to determine the location of other buried structural remains, as well as the remainder of the unexcavated area of Building B.

## CONCLUSIONS

The initial goal of the excavations at Mainistir Chiarain was to gain a better understanding of the structure and function of the Medieval monasteries on the Aran Islands. The questions are just beginning to be answered. In just three months more was discovered than had been expected; not only did the excavations go to the base of the initial unit, but they extended further to even older structures. These new finds indicate that the monastery at Mainistir has undergone more changes and phases than initially thought. The data may lead to new concepts concerning the layout of the smaller Medieval Irish monasteries, as well as a better understanding of their function in island society.

It is possible that Mainistir Chiarain served an important central role in the early Aran community, acting as both religious and domestic center. This would suggest that religious-centered life on the island may not have been significantly different than it was in Ireland itself.

So far, the excavations at Mainistir Chiarain have provided important information concerning the function and resettlement of monastic sites after the Reformation. It is hoped that with further study more can be learned about the time preceding this period, and with it a better understanding of the evolution of the Irish monastic system.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**Catalogue of Artifacts**  
**taken from**  
**Ni Ghabhlain and Moran**  
**1996**

**MAINISTIR CHIARAIN 1996**  
Preliminary Catalogue

Site #	Find #	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	001;001	001	Shell	3 gal. bags				
96E081	001;002	001	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	001;003	001	Mortar	1/3 4 x 5" bag				
96E081	001;004	001	Charcoal	1/3 4 x 5" bag				
96E081	001;005	001	Fired clay	1 pc .				
96E081	001;006	001	Pottery	6 sherds	284.86	501.68	1.74	White, glazed
96E081	001;007	001	Pottery	1 sherd	283.70	503.50	1.845	White, glazed
96E081	001;008	001	Pottery	5 sherds				White, glazed
96E081	001;009	001	Pottery	1 sherd				Unglazed, reddish
96E081	001;010	001	Pottery	1 sherd	284.00	497.30	2.115	Unglazed, reddish
96E081	001;011	001	Bone point	1	287.31	500.35	1.98	
96E081	001;012	001	Button	1				
96E081	001;013	001	Iron nail	1	2.01 ?	1.2 ?	2.13	
96E081	001;014	001	?					
96E081	001;015	001	Worked bone	1				Small bone point, polished
96E081	001;016	001	Chert flakes	3				
96E081	001;017	001	Chalk	1				
96E081	001;018	001	Glass	1				Clear
96E081	001;019	001	Iron nail	1				
96E081	001;020	001	Iron nail	1				
96E081	001;021	001	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	001;022	001	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	001;023	001	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	001;024	001	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	001;025	001	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	001;026	001	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	001;027	001	Grindstone					Granite
96E081	001;028	001	Shell	1/2 5 x 8 bag				
96E081	001;029	001	Bone	1/4 5 x 8" bag				
96E081	002;001	002	Shell	2/3 5 x 8" bag				
96E081	002;002	002	Bone	1/3 gal. bag				
96E081	002;003	002	Pottery	1 sherd	287.25	503.75	1.77	Unglazed. Local ware ?
96E081	002;004	002	Iron fragments	2				
96E081	002;005	002	Iron fragments					
96E081	003;001	003	Shell	1.5 gal. bags				
96E081	003;002	003	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	003;003	003	Charcoal	1/2 4 x 6 bag				
96E081	003;004	003	Burnt clay ?	5				
96E081	003;005	003	Clay bonding	1				
96E081	003;006	003	Shaped stone	1	286.00	497.80	?	
96E081	003;007	003	Iron nail	1	283.51	501.61	1.73	
96E081	003;008	003	Iron nail	1	283.80	499.49	1.87	
96E081	003;009	003	Iron nail	3 fragments	286.90	499.30	1.79	
96E081	003;010	003	Iron nail	1	284.44	503.22	1.645	
96E081	003;011	003	Lead shot	1	286.81	502.18	1.71	
96E081	003;012	003	Iron nail	1 fragment	287.12	502.05	1.73	
96E081	003;013	003	Iron nail	1	284.52	502.12	1.55	
96E081	003;014	003	Iron bolt/rivet	1	284.76	504.24	1.69	
96E081	003;015	003	Iron nail	1	284.44	503.70	1.565	
96E081	003;016	003	Iron nail	1	284.35	499.41	1.36	
96E081	003;017	003	Bone point	1 fragment				
96E081	003;018	003	Bone point	1 fragment				Tip of bone point, polished
96E081	003;019	003	Iron fragment	1	284.80	500.95	1.75	

Site#	Find #	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	003;020	003	Charcoal	1	287.60	502.34	2.215	Sample # 1
96E081	004;001	004	Shell	3 gal. bags				
96E081	004;002	004	Bone	2 gal. bags				
96E081	004;003	004	Mortar	3 fragments				
96E081	004;004	004	Charcoal	1/4 4 x 7" bag				
96E081	004;005	004	Burnt soil	1 pc				
96E081	004;006	004	Fired clay	2 pcs				
96E081	004;007	004	Stoneware	1 sherd	285.59	498.08	0.85	Small sherd. Unidentified
96E081	004;008	004	Iron nail	1	285.49	496.40	1.23	
96E081	004;009	004	Iron fragment	1	285.42	496.54	1.08	
96E081	004;010	004	Iron nail	1				Square head
96E081	004;011	004	Clay pipe stem	1	285.54	503.90	2.34	
96E081	004;012	004	Iron nail	1 fragment	287.74	498.17	1.98	Lower half
96E081	004;013	004	Stoneware	1 sherd	298.24	501.95	1.9	Frecken/Cologne ware - early 17thC
96E081	004;014	004	Stoneware	1 sherd				Cologne ware - C16th
96E081	004;015	004	Earthenware	1 sherd	287.45	498.41	1.97	White, glazed
96E081	004;016	004	Clay pipe stem	2				
96E081	004;017	004	Bone point	1	286.80	501.34	1.31	
96E081	004;018	004	Iron fragment	1	285.90	503.20	1.655	
96E081	004;019	004	Iron nail	1	285.80	503.72	1.61	
96E081	004;020	004	Nails	2				Modern
96E081	004;021	004	Iron nail	1	285.55	504.32	2.74	
96E081	004;022	004	Iron nail	1	285.00	496.71	2.23	
96E081	004;023	004	Iron fragment	1	285.28	501.18	1.315	
96E081	004;024	004	Iron nail	1 fragment	287.59	502.29	2.215	
96E081	004;025	004	Iron nail	1 fragment	287.55	501.34	1.29	
96E081	004;026	004	Iron fragment	1	287.93	501.80	1.28	
96E081	004;027	004	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	004;028	004	Iron nail	1	285.60	503.12	2.28	
96E081	004;029	004	Iron nail	1 fragment	285.29	500.85	1.32	
96E081	004;030	004	Glass	1 sherd				Clear
96E081	004;031	004	Stone pestle	1	285.28	501.26	1.705	
96E081	004;032	004	Grindstone	1 fragment				
96E081	004;033	004	Groundstone	1				Hammer/anvil ??
96E081	005;001	005	Shell	7 gal bags				
96E081	005;002	005	Bone	2 gal bags				
96E081	005;003	005	Mortar	5 pcs				
96E081	005;004	005	Charcoal	1/4 4 x 6" bag				
96E081	005;005	005	Burnt soil ?	1 pc				
96E081	005;006	005	Iron fragment	1	291.14	500.48	2.05	
96E081	005;007	005	Iron nail	1 fragment	289.16	501.53	2.02	
96E081	005;008	005	Iron nail	1 fragment	291.09	500.45	1.91	
96E081	005;009	005	Iron fragment	1	290.64	498.80	2.08	
96E081	005;010	005	Flint debitage	1				
96E081	005;011	005	Polishing stone ?	1	291.04	501.16	1.95	
96E081	005;012	005	Stone tool ?	1	289.50	497.60	2.55	
96E081	005;013	005	Clay sample	1/3 4 x 6" bag	289.07	501.63		Sample # 2
96E081	005;014	005	Soil sample	1/2 4 x 6" bag	289.00	501.47		Sample # 3
96E081	005;015	005	Quern stone	1	289.30	500.30	2.15	Unfinished. Partially bored.
96E081	006;001	006	Shell	1 gal. bag				
96E081	006;002	006	Bone	1/3 gal. bag				
96E081	006;003	006	Mortar	1 pc				
96E081	007;001	007	Shell	12 gal. bags				
96E081	007;002	007	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	007;003	007	Mortar	1/3 4 x 6" bag				
96E081	007;004	007	Charcoal	1/4 4 x 6" bag				
96E081	007;005	007	Fired clay	1 pc				
96E081	007;006	007	Stoneware	1 sherd	289.13	505.87	1.765	Left with R. Meehan for identification
96E081	007;007	007	Stoneware	1 sherd	289.08	502.40	1.805	Cologne stoneware C16th.
96E081	007;008	007	Iron nail	1	289.22	505.98	1.83	
96E081	007;009	007	Stoneware	1 sherd	289.45	502.61	1.72	Light brown, unglazed

Site#	Find#	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	007;010	007	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	007;011	007	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	007;012	007	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	007;013	007	Bone bead ?	1				North side of door
96E081	007;014	007	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	007;015	007	Flint flakes	2				
96E081	007;016	007	Human bone	3				Phalanges and 1 tooth.
96E081	007;017	007	Groundstone ?	1				
96E081	007;018	007	Groundstone ?	1				
96E081	009;001	009	Shell	2/3 gal. bag				
96E081	009;002	009	Bone	1/3 gal. bag				
96E081	009;003	009	Charcoal	3 pcs				
96E081	009;004	009	Charcoal sample	1 4 x 5" bag	290.93	500.88	1.82	Sample # 4
96E081	009;005	009	Iron fragment	1	290.51	500.93	1.83	
96E081	009;006	009	Stoneware	1 sherd	291.02	500.68	1.93	Tiny sherd. Mottled brown
96E081	009;007	009	Iron nail	1	291.00	500.90	1.89	
96E081	010;001	010	Shell	11 gal. bags				
96E081	010;002	010	Bone	1/2 gal. bag				
96E081	010;003	010	Charcoal	1/4 4 x 5"				
96E081	010;004	010	Metal spring ?	1				
96E081	011;001	011	Shell	7 gal. bags				
96E081	011;002	011	Bone	4 gal. bags				
96E081	011;003	011	Charcoal	3 pcs				
96E081	011;004	011	Glass	1				Clear
96E081	011;005	011	Knife	1	281.60	499.85	2	Bone handle and boss Late 16th-early 17thC
96E081	011;006	011	Pottery	1 sherd	286.50	499.70	1.985	White glazed earthenware
96E081	011;007	011	Iron fragment	1	281.58	497.80	2.01	
96E081	011;008	011	Burned bone	1	282.04	500.00	1.83	
96E081	011;009	011	Clay pipe bowl	1	282.44	499.05	2.18	Early 17thC
96E081	011;010	011	Clay pipe stem	1 fragment	282.35	499.24	2.07	
96E081	011;011	011	Clay pipe stem	1 fragment	282.29	499.84	2.115	
96E081	011;012	011	Stone fishing weight	1				
96E081	011;013	011	Flint tool	1	282.24	499.71	2.065	
96E081	011;014	011	Iron nail	1	281.58	499.80	2.025	
96E081	011;015	011	Iron nail	1				Square
96E081	011;016	011	Iron nail fragment	1 fragment				
96E081	011;017	011	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	011;018	011	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	011;019	011	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	011;020	011	Flint debitage	6				2 flakes, 4 debitage
96E081	011;021	011	Mortar	1				Large piece
96E081	011;022	011	Honestone	1	282.04	500.00	1.87	
96E081	011;023	011	Quernstone	1 fragment	281.82	486.35	1.94	
96E081	011;024	011	Quernstone	1 fragment	281.90	486.35	2.03	
96E081	011;025	011	Pestle	1	282.38	499.03	2.075	
96E081	012;001	012	Shell	1/2 5 x 8" bag				
96E081	012;002	012	Bone	1/3 5 x 8" bag				
96E081	012;003	012	Mortar	1 pc				
96E081	012;004	012	Charcoal	2 pcs				
96E081	012;005	012	Chert flake	1				
96E081	012;006	012	Fired clay	1 pc				
96E081	012;007	012	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	012;008	012	Blue glass bead	1	281.65	500.22	1.67	
96E081	012;009	012	Pottery	1 sherd	281.55	501.02	1.604	Late Saintonge - 16thC. Dish/bowl
96E081	015;001	015	Shell	2 gal. bags				
96E081	015;002	015	Bone	1/2 gal. bag				
96E081	015;003	015	Charcoal	1/2 4 x 6" bag				
96E081	015;004	015	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	015;005	015	Iron fragment	1	284.37	499.44	1.7	
96E081	015;006	015	Iron pin ?	2 pieces	285.95	501.72	1.68	
96E081	015;007	015	Iron nail	1 fragment	287.07	496.15	2.71 ?	

Site#	Find#	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	015;008	015	Iron nail	1 fragment	286.28	501.62	1.7	
96E081	015;009	015	Iron fragment	1	286.04	500.66	1.68	
96E081	015;010	015	Clay pipe stem	1	284.30	499.13	1.74	
96E081	015;011	015	Iron fragment	1	287.14	501.24	2.29	
96E081	015;012	015	Iron fragment	1	286.23	501.33	1.17	
96E081	015;013	015	Human bone	10				3 cranium, 2 phalanges, 5 teeth
96E081	015;014	015	Charcoal sample	1 bag	285.00	500.50		Sample # 5; Approx. location
96E081	015;015	015	Soil sample	1/3 gal. bag	286.75	501.50	2.3	
96E081	016;001	016	Shell	1/2 5 x 8" bag				
96E081	016;002	016	Bone	1/2 5 x 8" bag				
96E081	016;003	016	Charcoal	5 pcs				
96E081	017;001	017	Shell	2 gal. bag				
96E081	017;002	017	Bone	1/3 gal. bag				
96E081	017;003	017	Mortar	3 pcs				
96E081	017;004	017	Charcoal	2/3 4 x 6" bag				
96E081	017;005	017	Iron fragment	1	287.30	503.10	1.65	
96E081	017;006	017	Pottery	1 sherd	287.39	502.38	1.62	Merida ware. Orange. Flat base
96E081	017;007	017	Iron nail	1	286.35	503.25	1.65	
96E081	017;008	017	Iron fragment	1	285.70	501.52	1.67	
96E081	017;009	017	Metal object ?	1				
96E081	017;010	017	Flint debitage	1	284.55	501.09	1.63	Large chunk
96E081	017;011	017	Iron fragment	1	285.82	502.16	1.63	
96E081	019;001	019	Shell	2 gal. bags				
96E081	019;002	019	Bone	2 gal. bags				
96E081	019;003	019	Mortar	5 pcs				
96E081	019;004	019	Charcoal	1/4 4 x 6" bag				
96E081	019;005	019	Seeds	3				
96E081	019;006	019	Chalk	1 pc				
96E081	019;007	019	Coprolite ?	1				
96E081	019;008	019	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	019;009	019	Iron nail	1 fragment	282.03	501.76	1.51	
96E081	019;010	019	Pottery	1 sherd				Late Saintonge. C16th ?
96E081	019;011	019	Bronze strip	1	282.02	502.45	1.385	Perforated. Decorated with cross-hatching
96E081	019;012	019	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	019;013	019	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	019;014	019	Groundstone	1	278.47	503.94	1.35	Granite
96E081	021;001	021	Iron nail	1	285.80	499.65	1.63	
96E081	021;002	021	Iron fragment	1	285.27	499.65	1.63	
96E081	021;003	021	Iron nail	4 fragments	286.00	500.24	1.62	
96E081	021;004	021	Iron fragment	1	285.97	500.55	1.59	
96E081	021;005	021	Iron fragment	1	285.92	500.38	1.62	
96E081	021;006	021	Iron fragment	1	285.92	500.38	1.62	
96E081	021;007	021	Iron fragment	1	285.92	500.38	1.62	
96E081	021;008	021	Iron fragment	4	286.13	500.40	1.62	
96E081	021;009	021	Iron fragment	8	286.06	500.96	2.38	
96E081	021;010	021	Soil sample	.33 gal bag	285.42	501.01	1.64	Sample # 6. Ash and clay from hearth
96E081	022;001	022	Shell	1.5 gal. bags				
96E081	022;002	022	Bone	2.5 gal. bags				
96E081	022;003	022	Mortar	.5 4 x 5 bag				
96E081	022;004	022	Charcoal	10 pcs				
96E081	022;005	022	Stoneware	1 sherd	287.22	497.98	1.89	
96E081	023;001	023	Shell	11.5 gal. bags				
96E081	023;002	023	Bone	1.5 gal bags				
96E081	023;003	023	Human bone	4 fragments				1 tooth, 3 cranium fragments
96E081	023;004	023	Mortar	.25 4x6" bag				
96E081	023;005	023	Charcoal	.33 4x6" bag				
96E081	023;006	023	Fired clay	6 pcs				
96E081	023;007	023	Iron nail	1	289.27	504.47	1.74	
96E081	023;008	023	Flint debitage	1	289.33	510.12	1.66	
96E081	023;009	023	Chert flake	1	289.19	500.83	1.63	

Site #	Find#	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	023;010	023	Stoneware	1 sherd	289.53	500.67	1.63	Tiny sherd
96E081	023;011	023	Chert flake	1	289.38	501.50	1.725	
96E081	023;012	023	Iron nail	1 fragment	289.50	504.62	1.635	
96E081	023;013	023	Iron fragment	3	289.79	503.29	1.588	
96E081	023;014	023	Bone dice blank	1	289.68	504.45	1.71	7mm approx. Unfinished
96E081	023;015	023	Bone dice	1	289.57	503.45	1.66	7 mm approx.
96E081	023;016	023	Iron fragment	1	289.26	503.12	1.475	
96E081	023;017	023	Iron nail	1 head	289.33	503.50	1.655	
96E081	023;018	023	Iron object	1	289.27	505.24	1.72	Perforated, square
96E081	025;001	025	Shell	.33 gal. bag				
96E081	025;002	025	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	025;003	025	Mortar	.33 4x6" bag				
96E081	025;004	025	Seed	1				
96E081	025;005	025	Charcoal	.33 5x8" bag				
96E081	025;006	025	Iron fragment	1				Flat
96E081	025;007	025	Iron nail	1	283.58	504.40	1.44	
96E081	025;008	025	Iron nail	1	283.94	501.05	1.47	
96E081	025;009	025	Iron nail	1	283.50	504.46	1.43	
96E081	025;010	025	Iron nail	1	283.60	504.96	1.425	
96E081	025;011	025	Soil sample	.5 gal. bag				Sample # 7. Soil from fill of pit
96E081	027;001	027	Shell	1.25 gal. bags				
96E081	027;002	027	Bone	.33 gal. bag				
96E081	027;003	027	Charcoal	3 pcs				
96E081	027;004	027	Seeds	5				
96E081	029;001	029	Shell	1.5 gal. bags				
96E081	029;002	029	Bone	3 fragments				
96E081	029;003	029	Mortar	.5 4x6" bag				
96E081	029;004	029	Charcoal	5				
96E081	029;005	029	Fired clay	6				
96E081	029;006	029	Seeds	5				
96E081	031;001	031	Shell	10 gal. bags				
96E081	031;002	031	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	031;003	031	Mortar	1 pc				
96E081	032;001	032	Shell	30 gal. bags				
96E081	032;002	032	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	032;003	032	Charcoal	10 pcs				
96E081	032;004	032	Wood	1 fragment				
96E081	032;005	032	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	032;006	032	Bronze ? pin	1 half	289.42	500.65	2.24	
96E081	032;007	032	Bonze ? pin	1 half	289.27	500.79	1.76	Part of 032;006
96E081	033;001	033	Shell	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	033;002	033	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	033;003	033	Mortar	2 pcs				
96E081	033;004	033	Charcoal	2 pcs				
96E081	036;001	036	Shell	.5 5x8" bag				
96E081	036;002	036	Bone	.33 5x8" bag				
96E081	036;003	036	Charcoal	.25 5x8" bag				
96E081	037;001	037	Human bone					Long bones, 2 lower mandibles
96E081	038;001	038	Shell	.66 5x8" bag				
96E081	038;002	038	Bone	.66 5x8" bag				
96E081	038;003	038	Charcoal	3 pcs				
96E081	039;001	039	Shell	.33 4x6" bag				
96E081	039;002	039	Bone	.25 5x8" bag				
96E081	039;003	039	Charcoal	2 pcs				
96E081	039;004	039	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	040;001	040	Shell	.66 gal. bag				
96E081	040;002	040	Bone	.5 5x8" bag				
96E081	040;003	040	Mortar	2 pcs				
96E081	040;004	040	Charcoal	1 pc				
96E081	040;005	040	Iron nails	7 fragments	286.36	498.55	1.79	
96E081	042;001	042	Shell	.33 gal. bag				



Site#	Find#	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	042;002	042	Bone	.5 4x6" bag				
96E081	042;003	042	Charcoal	.25 3x4" bag				
96E081	043;001	043	Shell	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	043;002	043	Bone	3 gal. bags				
96E081	043;003	043	Mortar	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	043;004	043	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	043;005	043	Iron nail	1 fragment	285.05	500.55	1.652	
96E081	043;006	043	Iron fragment	1	284.27	503.63	1.41	
96E081	044;001	044	Shell	1 frag				
96E081	044;002	044	Bone	.33 5x8" bag				
96E081	044;003	044	Bone	1 frag	286.75	504.27	1.545	
96E081	045;001	045	Shell	1 5x8" bag				
96E081	045;002	045	Bone	.66 5x8" bag				
96E081	047;001	047	Shell	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	047;002	047	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	047;003	047	Mortar	6 pcs				
96E081	047;004	047	Charcoal	2 pcs				
96E081	048;001	048	Shell	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	048;002	048	Bone	1.66 gal. bags				
96E081	048;003	048	Mortar	.25 gal. bag				
96E081	048;004	048	Charcoal	4 pcs				
96E081	048;005	048	Coprolites	4 pcs				
96E081	048;006	048	Iron fragments	3	284.32	504.33	1.4	
96E081	048;007	048	Flint	1	284.67	504.00	1.43	Worked flake ?
96E081	049;001	049	Shell	.66 gal. bag				
96E081	049;002	049	Bone	1 4x6" bag				
96E081	049;003	049	Mortar	2 pcs				
96E081	049;004	049	Charcoal	2 pcs				
96E081	049;005	049	Fired clay	1 pc				
96E081	049;006	049	Pottery	1 sherd	287.19	499.45	1.565	Merida ware
96E081	049;007	049	Pottery	1 sherd	287.00	499.64	1.73	Merida ware
96E081	049;008	049	Pottery	1 sherd	287.30	499.60	1.615	Merida ware
96E081	049;009	049	Pottery	1 sherd	287.22	499.57	1.735	Merida ware
96E081	049;010	049	Iron key	1	287.33	499.60	1.645	
96E081	049;011	049	Soil sample	.5 5x8" bag				Charcoal rich
96E081	049;012	049	Soil sample	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	051;001	051	Shell	2 gal. bags				
96E081	051;002	051	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	051;003	051	Mortar	1 pc				
96E081	051;004	051	Fired clay	5+ pcs				
96E081	051;005	051	Hardened clay	2pcs				
96E081	051;006	051	Debitage	1				
96E081	051;007	051	Iron nail	1 fragment			1.68	
96E081	052;001	052	Shell	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	052;002	052	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	052;003	052	Mortar	2 pcs				
96E081	052;004	052	Seed	1				
96E081	052;005	052	Coprolites	2				
96E081	053;001	053	Shell	.25 4x6" bag				
96E081	053;002	053	Bone	.5 5x8" bag				
96E081	053;003	053	Charcoal	.25 5x8" bag				
96E081	053;004	053	Soil sample	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	053;005	053	Soil sample	1 gal. bag				
96E081	055;001	055	Shell	4 x 6" bag				.5 4x6" + .33 5 x 8" bag
96E081	055;002	055	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	055;003	055	Mortar	.33 4x5" bag				
96E081	055;004	055	Charcoal	3 pcs				
96E081	055;005	055	Iron nail	5 fragments	284.30	498.62	1.61	
96E081	057;001	057	Shell	.25 gal. bag				
96E081	057;002	057	Bone	.33 5x8" bag				
96E081	057;003	057	Charcoal					

Site#	Find#	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	057;004	057	Stoneware	1 sherd	286.24	496.63		Cologne stoneware. C16th
96E081	057;005	057	Iron fragments	4	286.66	496.85	1.86	
96E081	057;006	057	Iron fragment	1	286.38	496.83	1.86	
96E081	058;001	058	Shell	4 + gal. bags				
96E081	058;002	058	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	058;003	058	Mortar	.33 4x6" bag				
96E081	058;004	058	Charcoal	5 + pcs				
96E081	058;005	058	Debitage	1 flake				
96E081	058;006	058	Seeds	12 +				
96E081	058;007	058	Punched shell	1				
96E081	058;008	058	Pottery	1 sherd				Earthenware, glazed. Left with R. Meehan for identification
96E081	059;001	059	Shell	1.33 gal. bags				
96E081	059;002	059	Bone	.25 gal. bag				
96E081	059;003	059	Iron fragments	3	289.53	499.52	2	
96E081	061;001	061	Shell	40.5 gal bags				
96E081	061;002	061	Bone	3.25 gal. bags				
96E081	061;003	061	Mortar	7 4x6" bags				
96E081	061;004	061	Charcoal	.5 4x6" bag				
96E081	061;005	061	Fired clay	>.25 4x6" bag				
96E081	061;006	061	Seeds	.5 2x2" bag				
96E081	061;007	061	Human bone					3 teeth, 1 jaw with teeth
96E081	061;008	061	Chalk	1				
96E081	061;009	061	Debitage	7				Black chert
96E081	061;010	061	Punched shell ?	1				
96E081	061;011	061	Melted glass	1				
96E081	061;012	061	Burned soil	1				
96E081	061;013	061	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	061;014	061	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	061;015	061	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	061;016	061	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	061;017	061	Iron fragments	3				
96E081	061;018	061	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	061;019	061	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	061;020	061	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	061;021	061	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	061;022	061	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	061;023	061	Bronze fragment	1				
96E081	061;024	061	Metal object	1				Double-looped
96E081	061;025	061	Metal object	1				Single-looped
96E081	061;026	061	Stone bead ?					
96E081	061;027	061	Pottery	1 sherd				Saintonge. C14th ? Ridged
96E081	061;028	061	Pottery	1 sherd				Reddish, unglazed, tiny
96E081	061;029	061	Pottery	1 sherd				Black, glazed earthenware. C18th English ?
96E081	061;030	061	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	061;031	061	Iron nail	1	286.52	506.24	1.86	
96E081	061;032	061	Bakelite object ?	1				Decorated with two heads
96E081	061;033	061	Bronze ring	1	286.06	506.00	1.89	
96E081	061;034	061	Pottery	1 small sherd				Unglazed, reddish
96E081	063;001	063	Shell	9 gal. bags				
96E081	063;002	063	Bone	1 gal. bag				
96E081	063;003	063	Mortar	3.5 4x6" bags				
96E081	063;004	063	Charcoal	.33 5x8" bag				
96E081	063;005	063	Fired clay	10+ pcs				
96E081	063;006	063	Debitage	13				2 flint, 2 chert, 9 limestone
96E081	063;007	063	Seeds	.5 2x2" bag				
96E081	063;008	063	Chalk	3 pcs				
96E081	063;009	063	Wood	4 sm pcs				
96E081	063;010	063	Human bone	1 tooth				
96E081	063;011	063	Stone beads ?	2				

Site#	Find#	Context	Artifact	Quantity	Easting	Northing	Level	Description
96E081	063;012	063	Glass	1 fragment				Window glass - light aqua
96E081	063;013	063	Stoneware	1 sherd				Cologne stoneware
96E081	063;014	063	Wire	5 pcs				
96E081	063;015	063	Iron fragment	1				
96E081	063;016	063	Iron fragment	2				
96E081	063;017	063	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	063;018	063	Iron nail	1 fragment				
96E081	063;019	063	Slag ?	1 pc				
96E081	063;020	063	Bronze fragments	3				
96E081	063;021	063	Bronze fragment	1				
96E081	063;022	063	Bronze fragment	1				
96E081	063;023	063	Iron nail					
96E081	063;024	063	Iron nail					
96E081	063;025	063	Iron nail					
96E081	067;001	067	Shell	.5 5x8" bag				
96E081	067;002	067	Bone	.5 5x8" bag				
96E081	067;003	067	Fired clay	1 lrg pc				
96E081	068;001	068	Shell	.25 5x8" bag				
96E081	068;002	068	Bone	>.25 4x6" bag				
96E081	068;003	068	Iron nail	1 fragment	289.40	495.80	1.77	
96E081	069;001	069	Shell	1.33 gal. bags				
96E081	069;002	069	Bone	1.5 gal. bags				
96E081	069;003	069	Mortar	1 5x8" bag				
96E081	069;004	069	Charcoal	2 pcs				
96E081	069;005	069	Fired clay	2 pcs				
96E081	069;006	069	Seed	1				
96E081	069;007	069	Wood	.5 2x2" bag				
96E081	070;001	069	Shell	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	070;002	069	Bone	.25 5x8" bag				
96E081	071;001	071	Shell	.33 gal. bag				
96E081	071;002	071	Bone	.66 gal. bag				
96E081	071;003	071	Mortar	.5 5x8" bag				
96E081	071;004	071	Charcoal	>.25 4x6" bag				
96E081	071;005	071	Human bone	1				1 tooth
96E081	071;006	071	Iron nail	1				
96E081	072;001	072	Shell	1.5 gal. bags				
96E081	072;002	072	Bone	.5 gal. bag				
96E081	072;003	072	Charcoal	1 pc				



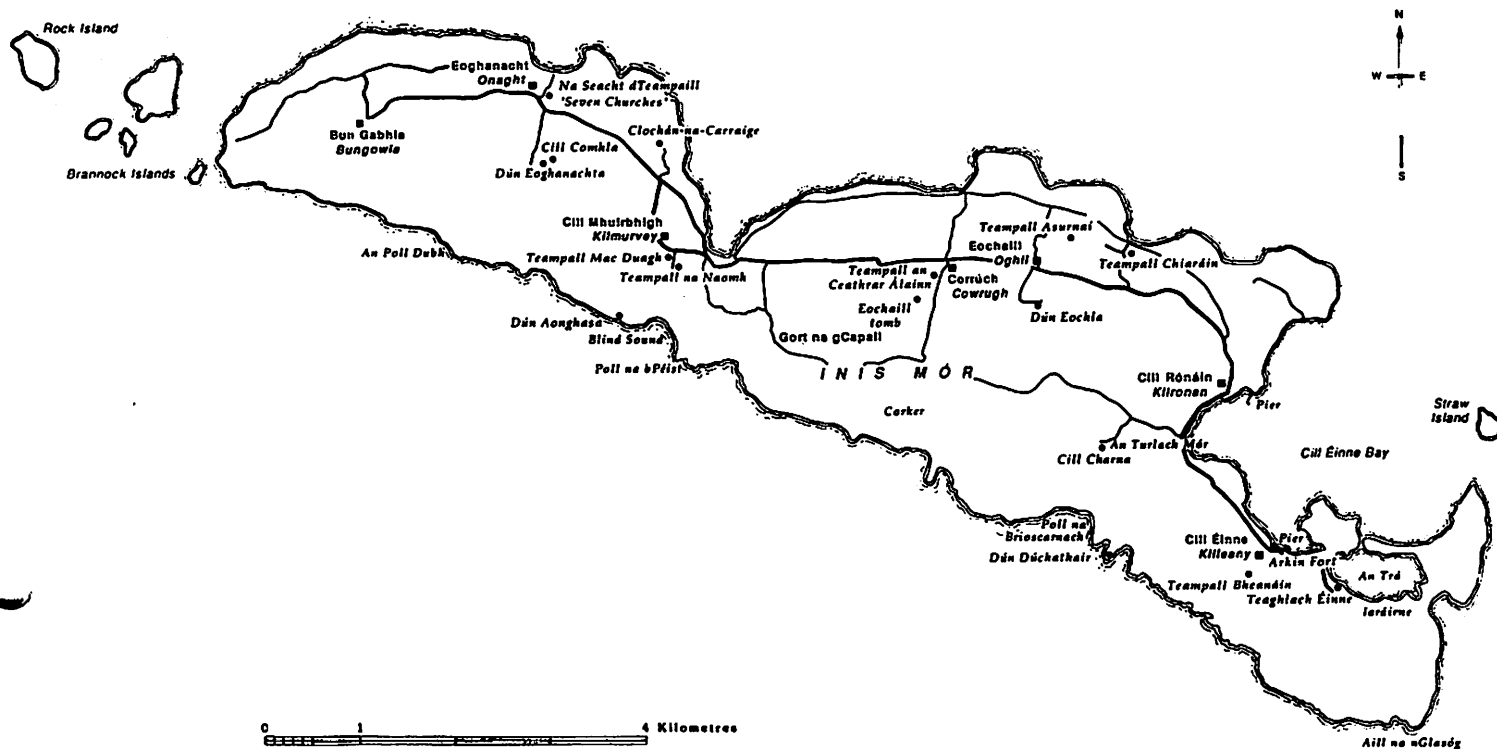


fig.2 - Inis Mór, Co. Galway, Ireland (from Waddell, O'Connell, and Korff, 1994)

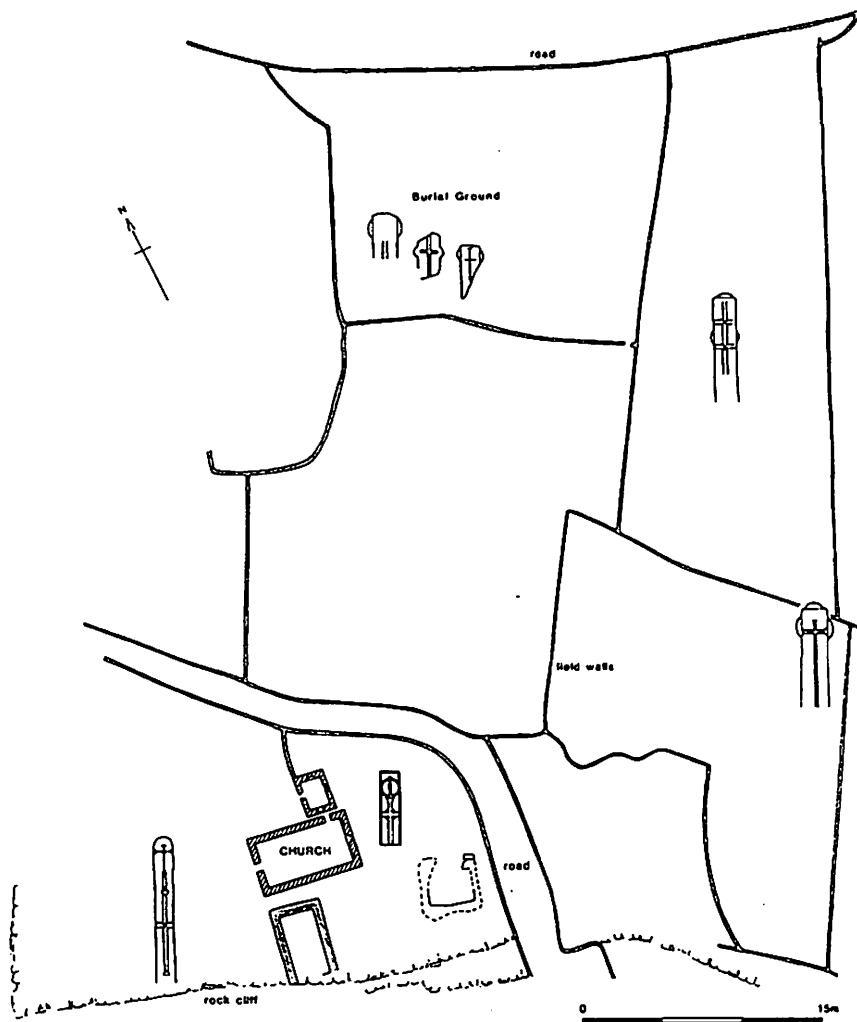


fig.3 - Mainistir Chiarain (from Waddell, O'Connell. and Korff, 1994)



fig.4 - North side of Teampall Chiarain



fig.5 - South side of Teampall Chiarain

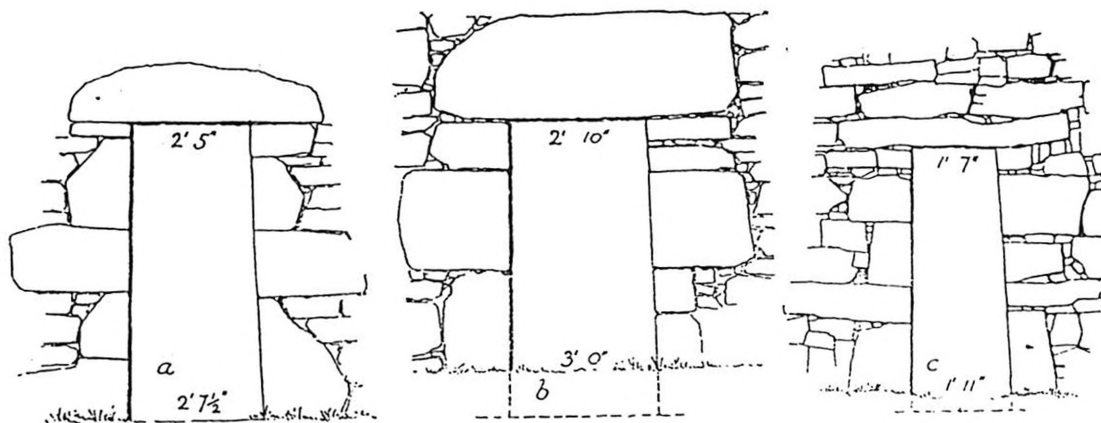


fig.6 - Lintelled doorways (from Leask, 1955)



fig.7 - Teampall Chiarain, east window





fig.8 - Mainistir Chiarain, south view



fig.9 - Mainistir Chiarain, southwest view



fig.10 - Mainistir Chiarain, east view





fig. 11 - Sundial, Mainistir Chiarain



fig. 12 - Human remains, northeast corner, Mainistir Chiarain

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